



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Okuniewicz, Douglas M.
Art Unit: 3713
Examiner: Binh-An D. Nguyen
Serial No.: 09/639,441
Filed: August 15, 2000
Title: PRINTING AND DISPENSING BONUSING SYSTEM FOR GAMING
DEVICES
Docket No.: A9658-69925

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE FILED UNDER
37 C.F.R. §1.312

Dear Examiner Nguyen:

In response to the Notice of Allowance dated 08/25/2004, the Applicant submits this amendment for your approval as allowed under M.P.E.P. §714.16 and 37 C.F.R. §1.312. Specifically, this amendment adds new dependent Claims 11 – 27, all of which depend from previously allowed independent Claim 10.

As required by M.P.E.P. §714.16, the Applicant now provides the following statements:

(A) Why the Amendment is Needed

The amendment adding dependent Claims 11 – 27 is necessary to more fully and completely claim the present invention. The new claims cover specific embodiments of the present invention that will cover products that may emerge very soon in the gaming industry. By adding these claims now, the Applicant hopes to provide a clear and definitive definition of the scope of the invention. This will not only help protect the Applicant's invention, but it will provide a clearer definition of the claims to any third parties who may make competitive products.

(B) Why the New Claims Require No Additional Search or Examination

The new claims all depend from independent Claim 10. Claim 10 is allowed under the present Notice of Allowance. Since the new claims are narrower in scope than their parent Claim 10, they are allowable for the same reasons. Consequently, no additional search or examination is required on the part of the Examiner.

(C) Why the New Claims are Patentable

The new claims are patentable because they all depend from independent Claim 10. Claim 10 is allowed under the present Notice of Allowance. Since the new claims are narrower in scope than their parent Claim 10, they are patentable for the same reasons.

Additionally, the new claims are supported in the specification as follows:

(1.) Claims 11 – 16, 20, and 21 claim various embodiments of system awards. These embodiments are supported on Page 8, Lines 5 – 10; and Page 23, Lines 11-22 of the specification of the application;

(2.) Claim 17 claims a printing/dispensing system as an integrated component of the electronic gaming device. This embodiment is supported on Page 22, Lines 20 – 23; and Page 25, Lines 6 – 10.

(3.) Claim 18 claims using a payable for determining payment. This embodiment is supported on Page 2, Line 28 – Page 3, Line 3.

(4.) Claims 19 and 22 – 27 claim various embodiments of commands and notifications through peripheral devices. These embodiments are supported on Page 4, Line 27 – Page 5, Line 1; Page 7, Lines 4 – 13; Page 12, Lines 11 - 23; Page 13, Lines 17 - 21

(D) Why the New Claims Were Not Presented Earlier

The Applicant has recently become aware of several potential products in the gaming industry that may infringe the claims of the application. The new claims were drafted to more explicitly define the scope of the invention. This benefits the Applicant and potential competitors by clearly stating the scope of the invention.